

March 7, 2006

Dr. Jeffrey P. Koenings, Director  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
PO Box 43135  
Olympia, WA 98504-3135

Dear Jeff:

I seem to recall from the not-too-distant past that there is a habit – or professional custom – in the fish and wildlife arena that people hoot and howl asking for the Department to do this or stop doing that, and then when you respond with doing or not doing whatever it was, they disappear without so much as a thank you.

Such is life. However, on behalf of Tim Powell and the Northwest Pipeline team, we wanted to send to you a thank you note for the work of the Department in completing the permitting of its natural gas pipeline replacement project late last fall. We assisted the Northwest Pipeline Corporation in its nearly two-year effort to permit the Capacity Replacement Project, a FERC-regulated interstate natural gas pipeline project consisting of 80 miles of replacement pipeline. This project involved over 150 waterbody crossings in Washington in two WDFW regions. No surprise with a project of such dimensions, the Department and the project encountered some rough sailing in working through the hydraulic project approvals. However, Greg Hueckel made time to meet with us and hear out our concerns with the permitting process in late summer of 2005. In response to our observations and requests, Greg responded well and entirely fairly, and the hurdles were overcome. Therefore, a thank you to you, Greg and the Department is due for the Department's responsiveness on this challenging project. Thanks are also due to Sonia Wolfman and Joe Shorin of the Attorney General's office, who helped expedite permitting for horizontal directional drill pipeline installations under three key rivers in fall 2005.

I hope all is otherwise well with you and your team. All the best.

Sincerely yours,

  
William W. Stelle

WWS:lm

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2006

WDFW  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR